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Samuel Martin,	do	2	o	o
James Howerton,	do	2	o	o
Wm. Casy,†	do	2	o	o

[Additional names in the roll for July 28, Aug. 28: Charles Davis, Thomas Williams, and Mesheck Boaz. Additional names appearing in the Company subsistence accounts: William Bird, William Hord, Alexander Garratt, Nathaniel Cunningham, Charles Leigh, John Woodson, Jacob Edmunds. In the pages under the caption "John Morton to the Public" (forage and subsistence) Mar. 22, Dec. 20, 1781, 437 names occur, many of them still familiar in Prince Edward Co.]

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## GENEALOGY.

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### THE BRENT FAMILY.

Compiled by W. B. CHILTON, Washington, D. C.

(CONTINUED.)

#### GEORGE BRENT OF WOODSTOCK OR AQUIA.

George Brent, the son of George Brent and Marianna Peyton and grandson of Richard Brent and Elizabeth Reed came to Virginia about the year 1650, settled in Stafford county and received large grants of land including the estates of Woodstock\* and Brenton. From the

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† Drummer, July 28, August 28. £2. 10. Total am't pay roll for the month, £175.

\*Map entitled "Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year 1670. Surveyed and exactly drawn by the only labor and endeavor of Augustin Herrmann. Scales 12 miles to the inch, published in 1673." Shows location of Brent's house on Aquia Creek.

Map of Joshua Fry and Pierre Jefferson published in France in 1755. Shows Brent's Mill in same neighborhood.

A legend on the Herrmann map states that the region between the Roanoke and James Rivers abounds in "tygers, bears and other devouring creatures."

In Justin Windsor's *Critical and Narrative History of America* it is stated that Augustine Herman and Resolved Waldron were Embassadors on behalf of the New Netherland to the Governor of Maryland in 1659.

In the outfit of a settler enumerated by Smith (Capt. John) is the item, a complete suit of armor. It is of interest to note that portions of a steel cuirass, exhumed at Jamestown, are in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society at Richmond.

records of the period it appears that he was a man of ability and influence in the community in which he lived. On May 2, 1683, he was appointed by the Governor and Council Receiver General north of the Rappahannock. He was the partner in the practice of the law of William Fitzhugh and is referred to very frequently in the published letters of the latter, who addresses him as "brother," meaning no doubt his brother in the legal profession.

At some time prior to 1687, Nicholas Hayward the younger, together with his brother, Richard Foote, Robert Bristow, (the last two merchants of London) and George Brent, of Woodstock, Virginia, purchased from the proprietors of the Northern Neck thirty thousand acres of land in the present Prince William county, then in Stafford, which they called Brenton. Portions of this land, which lies about the present village of Brentsville, long remained in the possession of the descendants of the four purchasers. On February 10th, 1686-7, a proclamation issued by King James II authorizes the purchasers of the said tract to freely exercise their religion. Presumably all of them were Roman Catholics. A copy of this proclamation is here reproduced. It will be noticed that the privilege as to the exercise of their religion is granted not only to the individuals named, but to all the inhabitants of the town or tract mentioned.

Copy from the original formerly in the possession of the late J. C. Brent, Washington, D. C.

Cópia: (Signed) James R.

Right trusty and well beloved, Wee greet you well. Whereas our Trusty and well beloved George Brent of Woodstock, in our County of Stafford in that our Collony of Virginia, Richard Foote and Robert Bristow of London, Merchants & Nicholas Hayward of London, Notary Publick have by their humble Petition informed us that they have purchased of our right trusty and well beloved Thomas Lord Culpeper a certain tract of land in our said Colony between the Rivers of Rappahannock and Potomac containing of estimation Thirty thousand acres lying in or near our said County of Stafford some miles distant from any present settlement or Inhabitants and at or about Twenty Miles from the foot of the mountains, upon part of which Tract of Land the Pet'rs have projected and do speedly designe to build a Towne with convenient fortifications, and doo therefore pray that for the encouragement of Inhabitants to settle in the said Towne and plantation wee would be pleased to grant them the free exercise of their Religion, wee have thought fitt to condescend to their humble request and wee do accordingly give and grant unto the Pet'rs and to all and every the Inhabitants which now are or hereafter shall bee settled in the said Towne and Tract of Land belonging to them as is above mentioned, the free exercise of their Religion without being prosecuted or molested upon

any penall laws or other account for the same, which wee do hereby signifie unto you to the end you may take care and give such orders as may be requisite. That they enjoy the full benefit of these our gracious intentions to them.

Provided they behave themselves in all civill matters so as to become peaceable and Loyall subjects, and for so doing this shall your warrant and so wee bid you heartuly farewell.

Given att our Court at Whitehall the 10th day of Feb'ry 1686-7, in the the third year of our Reign.

By his Maj'ties Commands

Sunderland.

Directed to our Right Trusty and well beloved Farncis Lord Howard of Effingham our Lieutenant & Governor Generall of our Collony & Dominions of Virginia in America and to our Chiefe Governor or Governors there for the time being.

The place of	This shall
the	oblige
Royal Signet.	Francis

Locum  
Sigilli.

This is a true copy of the original to me shown and produced—Examined in London this 19th day of February Anno Domini 1686.

Quod attesto marue ac sigillo rogatus.  
Sam'l Scorey, Not. Pub'k.

At an earlier date, Governor Charles Calvert writes to his father Lord Baltimore (April 27, 1664): "We heare nothing as yet of the Pattent w'ch some Bristol Merchants has of that neck of land betwixt Rapa. & Potowmeck but its said when the ships are gone it will be product." This probably refers to a previous patent. (Calvert Papers.)

From the letters of William Fitzhugh it appears that great efforts were made to build up the town of Brenton, which it was thought would be a valuable outpost to ward off attacks from the Indians.

WILLIAM FITZHUGH TO NICHOLAS HAYWOOD, APRIL 1, 1689.

\* \* \* This sudden turn of times in England may perhaps at present give a check to the Increment of Brenton from your French expectation but I believe may be additionally supplied by those methods. Capt. Brent intimates though not plainly expresses, by being a Refuge and Sanctuary for Roman Catholics. \* \* \*

Fitzhugh further intimates that every indulgence should be shown to Catholics who wished to settle in this part of Virginia.

In 1683, Fitzhugh writing to Lord Culpeper speaks of "Mr. Brent your Lordship's agent in these parts," referring evidently to George Brent.

George Brent was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses for Stafford county in 1688.

Bishop Meade in his "Old Churches Ministers and Families of Virginia," p. 205, referring to the records of Stafford county, going back to 1664, states: Among the items furnished in the presentment, in the year 1693, by Richard Gipson, of George and Robert Brent as being Papish recusants. He calls upon the court to assist upon their taking the test oath in order to [admit them] to the practice of the law. That oath is abjuration of trans-substantiation. The court sustains the presentment and requires them to take the oath; but they refuse and appeal to the General Court in Williamsburg. What was the issue we know not, but we believe that they were leading men at the Bar after that. One of them was associated in the practice with the first William Fitzhugh, and one of them was joint sponsor with the first George Mason at the baptism of an Indian boy whom they had taken prisoner."

The incident of the capture of the Indian boy and the fight with the Indians in which George Brent and Colonel Mason were engaged is described in an early account of Bacon's Rebellion as follows:

(TO BE CONTINUED)

### THE MORTON PATRIARCHS OF VIRGINIA.

By DANIEL MORTON, M. D., St. Joseph, Mo.

There were several men of the name Morton, living in Virginia prior to the year 1800, from whom have come distinct lines of descent. What relationship the heads of these families sustained to each other is unknown to me. In some instances their descendants have intermarried without any knowledge of kinship existing and really supposing that there was none. Anyone whose Morton ancestors lived in Virginia prior to 1800 is probably descended from one of these men. The information is believed to be accurate, though not all of it is documentary. If the reader can throw additional light upon the origin or relationship of these men he is requested to communicate with Daniel Morton, M. D., St. Joseph, Mo.

1. John Morton. In 1694, one, John Morton is found living in Northumberland county, Virginia, and in that year bought 157 acres of land in Richmond county from James Orchard. Presumably he then moved to Richmond county, and twenty-seven years later there is found in Richmond county, Sittenbourne Parish, one John Morton, presumably the same John, making his will and mentioning sons: 11, John; 12, William; 13, Thomas; 14, James; 15, Richard; wife Deborah, Mary and